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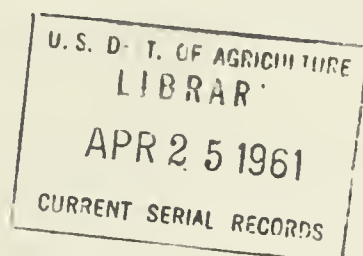
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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



*See
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F76F*



BEANS
FDP 5-60
August 12, 1960

U.S. BEAN EXPORTS

SET RECORD

U.S. dry bean exports of 2,546,000 bags in the first 9 months of the September 1, 1959, to May 31, 1960 marketing year, set a record for the period. Shipments were 9,000 bags above the previous high a year earlier.

A large U.S. supply of white beans, and a less-than-normal supply in some of the importing and exporting countries of Europe (See Foreign Agriculture Circular, FDP-C 11-59) made the new record possible. The United Kingdom, largest bean importer in Europe, took 43 percent more U.S. beans this season than last, and West Germany 120 percent more.

In addition, several countries unexpectedly bought sizable quantities. France, Spain, Brazil, and Australia each imported many more U.S. beans than in any previous year.

The 225,000 bags of U.S. beans bought by France was probably 7 or 8 times more than that country took in any previous year. The largest annual import was 165,000 bags in 1945 for noncommercial war relief.

A Spanish procurement of 87,000 bags through the International Cooperation Administration is the first sizable export of U.S. beans to Spain in many years. A purchase of 120,000 bags by Brazil compares with a previous record high of 6,000 bags in 1946, and nil in most other years. Australia took 13,000 bags in 1945, and almost nil since then.

BEANS, DRY: U.S. exports for 9-month period September 1959 - May 1960

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The Japanese purchase of 63,000 bags is the largest commercial bean shipment to that country, exceeding the previous record of 55,000 bags in 1954. Most U.S. beans imported by Japan in past years have been low priced splits, old crop or substandard material used for grinding into paste. In the September-May 9-months period, however, Japan purchased 8,800 bags of Great Northerns, 4,000 bags of Red Kidneys and 22,000 bags of "Other White Beans" at reported values indicating top or near-top quality. This season undoubtedly set a record for purchases of high quality U.S. beans by Japan, in relation to the growing Japanese market (See Foreign Agriculture Circular FDP 7-59). This development may be significant.

The large movement of white beans to all Europe, and the unprecedented sales to Japan, Australia, France and Spain, were partially offset by smaller exports to Cuba and Mexico, the largest Latin American markets. These countries together took 60 percent less in the first 3 quarters this season than last. A record 1959 production in Mexico and somewhat increased production in Cuba contributed to this.

Export data for the last quarter (July-August) of this marketing year are not yet available. During the comparable quarter last year, they totaled 1.4 million bags. The larger markets were the United Kingdom, 527,000 bags; Mexico, 410,000 and Cuba, 232,000 bags.

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